

# Red Rock Canyon

## KEYSTONE VISITOR GUIDE



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Photo: Red River Bed  
by Jeff Yost

### NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

#### Red Rock by Car

IT'S NOT CALLED THE SCENIC DRIVE FOR NOTHING...

So sit back and enjoy the drive. The maximum speed limit on the 13-Mile Scenic Drive is 35 mph and in some sections the speed limit is lower. By not exceeding the posted speed limits, you can enjoy the spectacular scenery while driving at a speed that is safe for you and your fellow motorists, bicyclists, runners and wildlife.

Now once you've followed the speed limit to your favorite turnout, it's time to park. Fortunately parking lots have been created for your convenience; however they do have limits. If the lot remains full, do not create your own parking spot by

parking off road on vegetation. These plants are native to the arid Mojave Desert and can take decades to regrow. You can pick a new spot to visit or reenter the 13-Mile Scenic Drive (your amenity fee is good for a full day).

The upside to following these easy tips is that you are more likely to safely enjoy your visit to Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, leaving it undamaged by your activities. Note: law enforcement rangers can cite visitors that disregard regulations.



Photo: The Left Turn  
by Joe Pohle



#### License Plate

You've enjoyed your visit to Red Rock and now you may be looking for a take-home memory of the National Conservation Area. If you are a Nevada resident, you have an opportunity to be reminded of your adventure by purchasing a Red Rock Canyon license plate.

The process is easy: go to the nearest Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles with your registration, ID and your old license plates. The charge for the new plate is \$61 with a one-time processing fee of \$5. Your normal renewal period will remain the same and plate renewals will be \$30.

Friends of Red Rock Canyon receives \$25 in revenue for the first year per plate and \$20 for renewals for these stylish license plates. All proceeds from the license sales will be used to support programs and services at Red Rock Canyon.

#### Hours of Operation

- Visitor Center  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- 13-Mile Scenic Drive, Red Rock Overlook on State Route 159 and Red Spring  
NOVEMBER - FEBRUARY 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
MARCH 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
APRIL - SEPTEMBER 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
OCTOBER 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Photo: Spread-winged Damsel (Lestes sp.)  
by Athena Sparks





Photo: The Climb  
by Christine Rasmussen

## Rock Climbing at Red Rock

WITH MORE THAN 2,000 CLIMBING ROUTES, RED ROCK CANYON NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA IS ONE OF THE TOP FIVE CLIMBING DESTINATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES.

There are two wilderness areas in the conservation area: Rainbow Mountain Wilderness and La Madre Mountain Wilderness. New, bolted, fixed anchors and/or protection bolts cannot be installed in either wilderness area. All of the major canyons in Red Rock Canyon are in the Rainbow Mountain Wilderness and all of the climbing routes located on White Rock Mountain and many crags near Kraft Mountain are within the La Madre Mountain Wilderness.

### RAIN, RAIN GO AWAY

The sandstone becomes very brittle when it rains and should not be climbed for at least 24 hours. By allowing the sandstone to dry out, hand and footholds will not be broken and gear will be less likely to pull out during a fall. If it rains during your visit to Red Rock Canyon and the sandstone is too brittle, consider the limestone sport crags that are found in Red Rock and other climbing sites around Las Vegas.

**TO OBTAIN A PERMIT, CALL 702-515-5050.** You may call up to seven days in advance or as late as the day of your climb. If your message is not clear, you will not receive a permit and you may receive a citation. Same-day permits are not issued after 4:30 p.m. For your safety and to receive a permit, the following information must be included in your message:

- NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER
- TYPE OF PERMIT, LE OR ON, AND CLIMBING DATE(S)
- VEHICLE PLATE NUMBER AND STATE
- VEHICLE DESCRIPTION
- CLIMBING ROUTE/WALL AND WHERE YOU WILL PARK
- EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME AND PHONE NUMBER

Additional information on limestone climbing and the classic crags of Red Rock is available at the visitor center. For more detailed information on specific climbs, contact the climbing ranger at (702) 515-5358.

### CLIMBING PERMITS

Late Exit permits (LE) provide an additional two hours of climbing time after the normal closure of the scenic drive. These permits are for multi-pitch routes and are only available for the following areas: Angel Food Wall, Ice Box Canyon, Juniper Canyon, Pine Creek Canyon and Oak Creek Canyon.

Overnight permits (ON) are only available for routes on the following walls: Mt. Wilson (1-2 nights), Levitation Wall (1 night), Rainbow Wall (1-2 nights), Buffalo Wall (1-3 nights), Hidden Wall (1-3 nights) and Bridge Mountain (1 night). Camping is not permitted at the base of any route.

## Desert Safety Tips

TO SAFELY ENJOY RED ROCK CANYON NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA, PLEASE RESPECT YOURSELVES AND OTHERS BY RECOGNIZING THE CHALLENGES THAT VISITING THE MOJAVE DESERT PRESENTS.

### GENERAL SAFETY

Let friends or family members know where you are going and what time you expect to be back. Don't rely on cell phones during your visit as coverage in the area can be unreliable or non-existent, especially within canyons. Leave your valuables at home. If you leave your car, take your purse or backpack with you and lock your doors. Never leave packages in plain sight where they may tempt someone to break in to your vehicle.

best protection against heat is drinking plenty of water and limiting exposure to the sun during the hottest parts of the day. If you feel dizzy, nauseous or get a headache, immediately get out of the sun and drink plenty of water. Dampen your clothing to lower your body temperature.

### DESERT DWELLERS

Watch where you put your hands and feet. Rattlesnakes, scorpions or venomous spiders may be sheltered behind boulders or under rocks and shrubs. Do not touch, collect or try to kill theses animals.

### PROTECTIVE GEAR

For hiking, select shoes that will provide a comfortable fit, ankle stability and protection against cactus spines. Wear clothes that provide protection against the sun (i.e. hats, long sleeves, long pants, etc.) and apply sunscreen.

### WATER

Drink at least one gallon (four liters) per day if you are hiking, the day is hot or the trail is exposed to direct sunlight. Carry at least one gallon of extra water per person in your vehicle. Bottled water is available for purchase at the visitor center. This is the only location where drinking water is available in the national conservation area.

### FLASH FLOODS

When hiking, avoid canyons during rainstorms and be prepared to move to higher ground. While driving, be alert for water running in the normally dry desert washes and across road dips. Do not walk or drive through flood water flowing across a road.

### HEAT

Temperatures in Red Rock Canyon can average more than 100 degrees Fahrenheit during the summer months. The

### LIGHTNING

Lightning storms frequently occur in the afternoon during the summer months. To prevent lightning from striking you, avoid high places and seek cover in buildings or in vehicles with the windows rolled up. If caught outdoors, crouch down on both feet with your arms wrapped around your knees and wait out the storm.

## Fees and Annual Passes

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area began collecting fees in 1998. America the Beautiful Annual Pass, which replaced the National Parks Pass, Golden Age, Golden Access and Golden Eagle began sales in 2007. Below is a list of all passes that are available at the Red Rock Canyon entrance station:

- DAILY FEE - \$7**  
Daily pass for Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. Does not include overnight stays in the developed campground.
- RED ROCK ANNUAL PASS - \$30**  
Yearly pass for Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. Does not include overnight stays in the developed campground.
- AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL ANNUAL PASS - \$80**  
The America the Beautiful pass is an interagency pass that will be honored by the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation.
- AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL SENIOR PASS - \$10 one time fee**  
Lifetime pass for U.S. citizens who are 62 and older to national parks, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuges, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Land Management sites. Pass provides 50 percent discount on campground fees.
- AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL ACCESS PASS - FREE (obtain from ranger at the visitor center)**  
Lifetime pass for U.S. citizens with a permanent disability to national parks, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuges, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Land Management sites. Pass provides 50 percent discount on campground fees.







Photo: Bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*)  
by Gregory Mclemor

## Hiking Trail Descriptions

TRAIL NAME	LEVELS OF DIFFICULTY AND GAIN	APPROXIMATE ROUND-TRIP TIME AND DISTANCE
1. MOENKOPI	Easy 300 ft [90 m]	1.5 hours • 2 mi [3.2 km]
This trail starts to the west of the visitor center near the picnic area. It offers panoramic views of the Calico Hills, the Spring Mountains and La Madre Mountains.		
2. CALICO HILLS	Easy - Moderate 400 ft [120 m]	1.5 - 3.5 hours • 2 - 6 mi [3.2-9.6km]
This trail can be accessed by parking at either Calico I, Calico II or near the entrance station. This trail offers access to sport climbing areas and the best close-up views of the Calico Hills.		
3. CALICO TANKS	Moderate 450 ft [140 m]	2 hours • 2.5 mi [4 km]
This trail starts at the Sandstone Quarry parking lot. It winds through a wash and there may be seasonal water present in a natural tank [tinaja] at the end.		
4. TURTLEHEAD PEAK	Strenuous 2,000 ft [600 m]	3.5 - 4.5 hours • 5 mi [8 km]
This trail starts at the Sandstone Quarry parking lot and follows the shoulder of the peak to the top [6,324 ft / 1,927 m]. The trail is intermittent and composed of loose rock.		
5. KEYSTONE THRUST	Moderate 400 ft [120m]	1.5 hours • 2.2 mi [3.5 km]
This trail is accessed from the upper White Rock Spring parking lot. It takes you to the most significant geologic feature of Red Rock Canyon - the Keystone Thrust.		
6. WHITE ROCK - WILLOW SPRINGS	Easy-Moderate 200 ft [60 m]	2.5 hours • 4.4 mi [7 km]
This trail starts at either the upper White Rock Spring parking lot or at the Willow Springs Picnic Area. Watch for wildlife that rely on these year-round springs.		
7. WHITE ROCK / LA MADRE SPRING LOOP	Moderate 890 ft [270 m]	3.5 hours • 6 mi [9.6 km]
This trail can be started at three places: the upper White Rock Spring parking lot, the Lost Creek Trail parking lot or Willow Springs Picnic Area. The north side of White Rock is one of the best areas for viewing bighorn sheep. You can connect to the La Madre Spring Trail to see a year-round spring.		
8. LOST CREEK - CHILDREN’S DISCOVERY	Easy - Moderate 200 ft [60 m]	55 minutes • 0.75 mi [1.2 km]
This moderately easy trail is a wonderful place to explore because of the variety of plant life and a number of cultural sites. Depending on the season, there may be a waterfall [January - March.] Also look for a pictograph and an agave roasting pit site. [Combination rocky, uneven terrain and boardwalk trail.]		
9. WILLOW SPRINGS LOOP	Easy 200 ft [60 m]	1.25 hours • 1.5 [2.4 km]
This trail can be started at either the Willow Springs Picnic Area or Lost Creek Trail parking lot. The trail passes several pictograph and agave roasting pit sites.		
10. LA MADRE SPRING	Moderate 400 ft [120 m]	2 hours • 3.3 mi [5.2 km]
This trail starts at the Willow Springs Picnic Area. The first segment involves walking up part of the 4x4 Rocky Gap Road. These springs are a good place to watch for wildlife, including desert bighorn sheep.		
11. SMYC	Moderate 300 ft [90 m]	2 hours • 2.2 mi [3.5 km]
This trail can be accessed from either the Lost Creek or Ice Box Canyon trails. It follows the terrain at the base of the escarpment and connects the two trails.		
12. ICE BOX CANYON	Moderate 300 ft [90 m]	2 hours • 2.6 mi [4.1 km]
The parking lot for this trail is at mile 8 on the 13-Mile Scenic Drive. This trail crosses open desert then enters the canyon. Unimproved trails in the canyon require some tricky rock scrambling where there may be seasonal waterfalls [January - March].		
13. DALE’S	Moderate 300 ft [90 m]	2.5 hours • 4.4 mi [7 km]
This trail can be accessed from either the Ice Box Canyon or Pine Creek Canyon trails. It follows the terrain at the base of the escarpment and connects the two trails.		
14. PINE CREEK CANYON	Easy - Moderate 300 ft [90 m]	2 hours • 3 mi [4.8 km]
This trail takes you across the open desert, past an old homestead site and into the canyon. You may find seasonal waterfalls. Unimproved trails in the canyon require some tricky rock scrambling.		
15. FIRE ECOLOGY	Easy 200 ft [60 m]	55 minutes • 0.75 mi [1.2 km]
This trail branches off the Pine Creek Canyon Trail. It is a short, figure eight trail that goes through a stand of Ponderosa Pine where a controlled burn took place.		
16. OAK CREEK CANYON	Easy - Moderate 200 ft [60 m]	1.5 hours • 2 mi [3.2 km]
To access this trailhead, take the Oak Creek turnoff from the 13-Mile Scenic Drive onto a dirt road. The trail then heads through open desert to the mouth of the canyon. Unimproved trails lead deeper into the canyon. Oak Creek is also accessible from State Route 159.		
17. ARNIGHT	Moderate 300 ft [90 m]	1.5 hours • 2.4 mi [3.8 km]
This trail can be started at the Oak Creek Canyon parking lot or by hiking the Pine Creek Canyon Trail. It connects the Oak Creek parking lot with the end loop of the Pine Creek Canyon Trail.		
18. KNOLL	Moderate 300 ft [90 m]	2.5 hours • 3.5 mi [5.6 km]
The shortest and easiest way to access this trail is by taking the Oak Creek Canyon Trail. This trail links the upper section of the Arnight Trail with the Oak Creek Canyon Trail, following the base of the escarpment.		
19. FIRST CREEK CANYON	Easy - Moderate 300 ft [90 m]	2 hours • 3 mi [4.8 km]
This trailhead is on State Route 159 [W. Charleston Blvd.] 2.6 miles [4.1 km] southwest of the exit to the 13-Mile Scenic Drive. The trail leads to the mouth of the canyon. Seasonal streams and waterfalls can be found deep in the canyon on unimproved trails [January - March.]		





Red Rock Canyon  
Contact Information

[www.nv.blm.gov/redrockcanyon](http://www.nv.blm.gov/redrockcanyon)

Emergency or Fire  
[702] 293-8932 or 911

BLM Southern Nevada District Office  
[702] 515-5000

Red Rock Visitor Center  
[702] 515-5350

Climbing Permits  
[702] 515-5050

Gift & Book Store  
[702] 515-5361

Friends of Red Rock Canyon  
[702] 515-5360

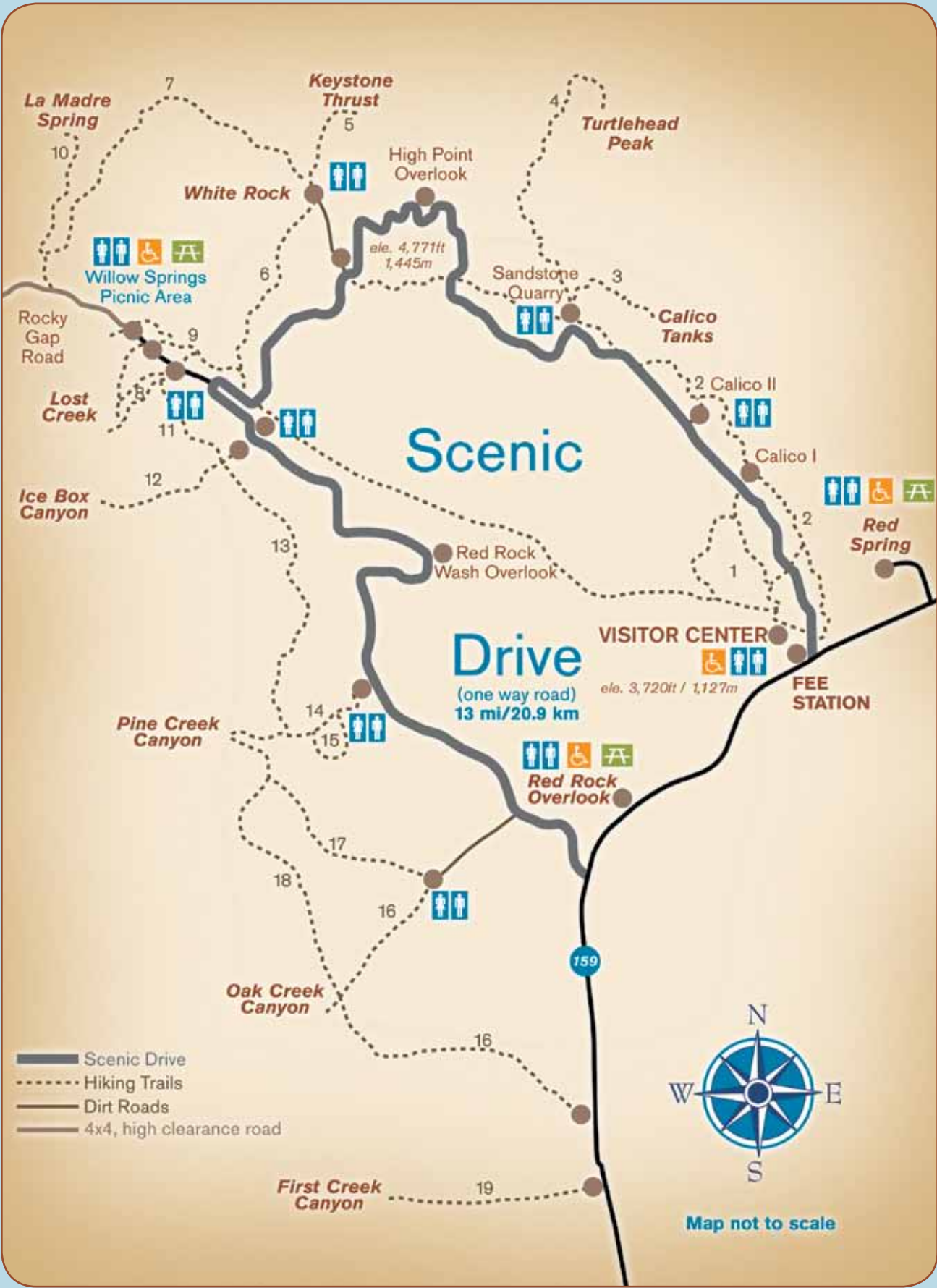
Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association  
Organized Hikes  
[702] 515-5367

This publication was made available through a partnership with Bureau of Land Management, Friends of Red Rock Canyon and Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association.

BLM/NV/LV/GI/11-14+1800

Photo: Indigobush (*Psoralea argemonea*)  
by Kate Sorom

Hiking Map



- Restrooms
- Parking Area
- Wheelchair Access
- Picnic Area

Hike Ratings

Ratings are based on the general ability of a person who hikes frequently. Your ability may differ from the ratings standard used at Red Rock Canyon. Your ability may also be affected by weather, the condition and steepness of the trail, having enough water and physical condition on a given day, among other things.



Moderate



Moderate-Strenuous



Strenuous

Strenuous:

Generally, lots of uphill sections (and later downhill); possibly more than 1,000 feet of elevation gain; double digit mileage and/or difficult terrain and rock scrambling.

Moderate:

Uphill sections include up to 1,000 feet of elevation gain; single digit mileage; uneven terrain and some rock scrambling.

Easy:

Like a walk in the city, but on uneven terrain. (Not guaranteed to seem easy if you are not used to trail hiking.)

Combinations:

Listed as easy-moderate, moderate-strenuous and so on.